

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 80

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 119

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 80—Relative to Arthritis Awareness.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 31, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 80, Alquist. Arthritis awareness.

This measure would recognize the need to create and foster a statewide arthritis awareness program, as prescribed, and to work to adequately fund the program in 2006. The measure would also proclaim August 2006 as Arthritis Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, The success of our nation depends upon a population that is healthy, reasonably free of pain, and functionally independent throughout the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, Arthritis includes more than 100 diseases and conditions affecting joints and connective tissues, such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, Lyme disease, and gout; and

WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States, significantly affecting the quality of life for more than 70 million Americans who experience its painful symptoms; and

WHEREAS, According to the State Department of Health Services' California Arthritis Atlas, a 2002 report on the impact of arthritis statewide, more than 6.5 million California adults, constituting 27 percent of the population, have arthritis; and

WHEREAS, Arthritis affects people in all age groups, including as many as 285,000 children; and

WHEREAS, A disproportionate number of older Californians, or an estimated 46 percent of those 45 years of age and older, have arthritis or experience chronic joint symptoms, and over one-half of all persons age 65 years or older have arthritis; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services concluded, in its 2002 California Arthritis Atlas, that arthritis costs the California economy an estimated \$32 billion annually in medical expenses and lost wages; and

WHEREAS, Reports from the CDC and agencies in California indicate that disability is more severe in underserved populations that lack access to early diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Existing public information and programs about arthritis in California remain inadequately disseminated and insufficient in addressing the needs of specific diverse populations and other underserved groups; and

WHEREAS, Educating the public and the health care community throughout the state about this devastating disease is of paramount importance and is in every respect in the public interest and to the benefit of all residents of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, The California Arthritis Foundation chapters, in partnership with other agencies throughout the state, have led the development of a public health strategy, the National Arthritis Action Plan, to respond to this challenge; and

WHEREAS, Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States, and is associated with poorer physical health and poorer mental health; and

WHEREAS, Arthritis is not necessarily an inevitable part of the aging process; rather, effective methods exist to prevent, delay the onset of, and manage the symptoms of, arthritis; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the need to create and foster a statewide program, in coordination with the California Arthritis Foundation chapters, that emphasizes a multiethnic approach, promotes public awareness, and increases knowledge about the causes of arthritis, the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate management, effective prevention strategies, and pain prevention and management; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature recognizes the need to work in 2006 to adequately fund the statewide program, so as to allow for the development and dissemination to patients, health professionals, and the public, of educational materials, information on research results, available services, and strategies for prevention and control, and for the adaptation of this material to the appropriate languages and reading levels of medically underserved, ethnically diverse communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature proclaims the month of August 2006 as Arthritis Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.